

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303690  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:CSCHRISTIAN:PAW  
APPROVED BY EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS  
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FOR EA ONLY

-----116000 211527Z /43

R 211450Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

FROM: EA/PHL - JAMES SARTORIUS

### 1. DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ALTHOUGH BALLOTS CAST ON DECEMBER 17 ARE STILL BEING  
COUNTED, EARLY TALLIES NOT SURPRISINGLY INDICATE THAT  
PRESIDENT MARCOS IS WELL ON THE WAY TO HIS FIFTH OVER-  
WHELMING REFERENDUM VICTORY SINCE THE DECLARATION OF MAR-  
TIAL LAW. ALTHOUGH MARCOS' OPPONENTS, LED BY FORMER  
PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL AND SEVERAL FORMER SENATORS AND  
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, HAD URGED THE 21.5 MILLION REGIS-  
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TERED VOTERS TO BOYCOTT THE REFERENDUM, THE TURNOUT WAS  
REPORTEDLY FAIRLY HEAVY. PRELIMINARY COUNTS INDICATE  
A 90 PERCENT AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, WHICH WOULD BE GENERALLY  
IN LINE WITH THE OUTCOME OF PREVIOUS MARCOS-SPONSORED  
REFERENDA. FINAL RESULTS ARE EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK.

### 2. RETRIAL ORDERED FOR CONVICTED FILIPINA NURSES

(UNCLASSIFIED)

ACCORDING TO THE MAJOR WIRE SERVICES, TWO FILIPINA NURSES CONVICTED IN DETROIT EARLIER THIS YEAR OF POISONING FIVE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL PATIENTS IN 1975 WILL BE GRANTED A RETRIAL. A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED THE NEW TRIAL CITING "NUMEROUS IMPROPRIETIES" BY THE PROSECUTION DURING THE ORIGINAL TRIAL. THE NURSES' CASE HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF WIDESPREAD PUBLIC ATTENTION IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE THE PRESS AND NURSES' ASSOCIATIONS CHALLENGED THE TREATMENT OBTAINED BY FILIPINOS IN AN AMERICAN COURT AND CONTRASTED THE CASE WITH THE LACK OF JURISDICTION OF PHILIPPINE COURTS OVER AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN THAT COUNTRY. NO DATE FOR THE NEW TRIAL HAS BEEN SET, BUT IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009